

Message Text

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PAGE 01 PESHAW 01487 061111Z
ACTION NEA-11

INFO LOG-00 COPY-01 ADS-00 INR-10 EUR-00 SS-00 CIAE-00
DODE-00 H-01 NSC-01 NSAE-00 SY-06 HA-08 L-03
PM-10 PA-01 MCT-03 OMB-01 RP-10 SSN-01 A-02
SYE-00 USIE-00 SP-02 SR-06 SNP-01 PRS-01 SSA-02
SPD-02 /083 W

-----165777 061336Z /52

P 060945Z MAY 75
FM AMCONSUL PESHAWAR
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2281
AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD
INFO AMEMBASSY KABUL
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

C O N F I D E N T I A L PESHAWAR 1487

E.O. 12356: DECL: OADR
TAGS: PGOV, MOPS, AF
SUB: AMERICAN DOCTOR RETURNS FROM PANJSHER

1. C - ENTIRE TEXT.
2. ON MAY 6, WE SPOKE BRIEFLY WITH A DR. DARBY, AN INTERNIST OF SAN ANGELO, TEXAS, WHO RETURNED ON MAY 5 FROM A MONTH'S TRIP TO PANJSHER. DR. DARBY HAS BEEN TO AFGHANISTAN TWICE SINCE MARCH ON BEHALF OF THE INTERNATIONAL MEDICAL CORPS (IMC). HE IS LEAVING PESHAWAR EVENING OF MAY 6 AND WILL CALL DEPT (AFGHAN DESK OR AMBASSADOR DUNBAR) AS HE TRANSITS NEW YORK TO SET UP A MORE EXTENSIVE DEBRIEF BY TELEPHONE. HE ALSO OFFERED TO PROVIDE THE DEPARTMENT WITH A COPY OF HIS EXTENSIVE NOTES ON HIS TRIP TO AFGHANISTAN ONCE THEY ARE TYPED.
3. THE DOCTOR DESCRIBED TO US THE EXTREME, LIFE-THREATENING PHYSICAL HARDSHIP OF THE CROSSING FROM PAKISTAN (BAJAURSAGENCY) TO PANJSHER. THE TRIP TO PANJSHER TOOK FOURTEEN DAYS AND THE
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PAGE 02 PESHAW 01487 061111Z

RETURN TOOK ELEVEN. HE SPENT TWO DAYS WITH COMMANDER AHMED SHAH MASOOD IN PANJSHER. FOLLOWING IS A SUMMARY OF HIS COMMENTS:

-- ALTHOUGH HE CAME TO AFGHANISTAN INTENDING TO ACT AS A DOCTOR, IN FACT HE DID NOT DO MUCH TREATMENT. IN HIS FIRST TRIP TO AFGHANISTAN IN MARCH, HE SET UP TWO CLINICS IN PAKTIA,

WHICH WILL BE STAFFED BY TWO IMC NURSES (AMERICAN WOMEN) WHO ARE PRESENTLY TRAVELLING ELSEWHERE IN SOUTH ASIA. ON THE SECOND TRIP, HE WENT DIRECTLY TO AND FROM PANJSHER WITHOUT STOPPING TO PERFORM MEDICAL TREATMENT.

-- AFGHANS ARE IN NEED OF MEDICAL CARE, BUT HE DOUBTS WHETHER TRANSIENT TYPE CLINICS ARE THE APPROPRIATE SOLUTION. THE UNDERLYING CAUSES OF MANY OF THE DISEASES AFGHANS SUFFER (POOR SANITATION AND PERSONAL HYGIENE) CANNOT BE CURED BY A DOCTOR VISITING A VILLAGE FOR A DAY OR TWO.

-- WHILE MANY AFGHANS WELCOMED HIS VISITS, COMMANDER MASOOD MADE IT CLEAR THAT HE DID NOT WANT AMERICAN DOCTORS IN PANJSHER. FOREIGN DOCTORS ARE TOO MUCH TROUBLE. THEY DRAW FIRE AND ENDANGER THE MUJAHIDEEN, AND SIPHON OFF RESOURCES NEEDED FOR THEIR PROTECTION.

-- MASOOD TOLD HIM THAT THERE HAD BEEN FEELERS TOWARD ANOTHER TRUCE. HE ALSO MENTIONED THAT SAMS DO NOT WORK WELL IN PANJSHER.

-- DR. DARBY WILL RECOMMEND TO IMC THAT U.S. DOCTORS NOT BE SENT INTO AFGHANISTAN. INSTEAD, U.S. DOCTORS COULD TRAIN AFGHANS IN PESHAWAR, OR AFGHANS COULD BE TRAINED IN THE U.S. ENABLING THE AFGHANS TO MEET THEIR OWN MEDICAL NEEDS.

4. THE DOCTOR TRAVELED TO PANJSHER WITH REPRESENTATIVES OF THE UNION OF AFGHAN MUJAHIDEEN DOCTORS, AS WELL AS WITH CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 03 PESHAW 01487 061111Z

JAMIAT-E-ISLAMI MUJAHIDEEN. HE NOTED HEAVY SOVIET/DRA AIR ACTIVITY IN THE KONA VALLEY, BUT DID NOT SEE ANY FIGHTING HIMSELF. HE NOTED THAT HIS TRIPS INTO AFGHANISTAN WERE A "ONCE-IN-A-LIFETIME" EXPERIENCE BUT HE DOES NOT PLAN TO TRY IT AGAIN.

5. KABUL MINIMIZE CONSIDERED. EASTHAM

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